(2) Calling Attention to Increase in Prices of Coconuts in Tamil Nadu

திரு. வி. தங்கபாண்டியன் : தலைவரவர்களே, தமிழ்நாட்டிலிருந்து வட மாநிலங்களுக்குத் தேங்காய் ஏராளமாக திடீரென்று விற்பனை செய்யப்படுவதால், தமிழ் நாட்டில் தேங்காய் விலை மிக அதிகமாக உயர்ந்துகொண்டிருப்பதால், மக்கள் கஷ்டத்திற்கு உள்ளாகிறார்கள் என்பதை அவசர பொது முக்கியத்துவம் வாய்ந்த நிகழ்ச்சியாக மாண்பு மிகு உணவு-வணிக வரி அமைச்சர் அவர்களின் கவனத்திற்குக் கொண்டு வருகிறேன்.

THE HON. THIRU P.U. SHANMUGHAM : Mr. Deputy Chairman, the major coconut producing districts in the State are Thanjavur, Kanyakumari, Coimbatore, Tiruchirapalli, Madurai and Salem in the order of importance. In addition, supplies are received from Kerala and Mysore States. There is consumer preference in Madras City for medium and big size nuts imported from other States and there is export of the smaller sized nuts produced within the State to Northern States. On an average, about 70 lakhs of nuts are received per month in the City of which 25 lakhs are exported.

The drought conditions that prevailed in earlier years have had an adverse yield on the trees. Further, the arrivals in Madras City from Andhra Pradesh were affected due to the damage caused by cyclone and floods in that State. Late rains in Thanjavur district also affected the yield of coconuts. This had resulted in an upward trend in the prices from November—December, 1969. It is, however, expected that the favourable seasonal conditions of 1969-70 would result in improved yields and, therefore, the prices would come down hereafter. A downward trend has been noticed from July onwards during which period the wholesale price has come down to Rs. 600/- from Rs. 700/- for 100 nuts of medium size.

The State Government have exempted with effect from 18-3-1970 coconut from the liability to pay sales tax, earlier levied at 5% single point, at the point of first purchase.

(3) Calling attention to hardship caused to teachers on account of Denial by some managements of the privilege of continuity of service to the end of school year

*THIRU A. R. DAMODARAN : Mr. Deputy Chairman, I wish to call the attention of the Hon. the Minister for Education and Health to a matter of urgent public importance, namely, the denial (by some managements) of the privilege conferred so far of continuity of service to the end of the school year, to teachers completing their 60th year of age in the middle of the current school year and the consequent hardship caused to such teachers.